



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Sues Provider of Foreclosure Prevention Services for Allegedly Charging Illegal Advance Fees

Pikesville company allegedly took thousands in advance payments for services that were never provided

BALTIMORE, MD (July 5, 2016) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that the Consumer Protection Division has filed charges against Pikesville-based Mutual Associates Professional Solutions, LLC and its founder Ronald E. Williams, for allegedly charging at least 70 consumers illegal advance fees and refusing to provide refunds after failing to help homeowners invalidate their mortgage loan obligations or providing other promised services.

The administrative charges allege violations of the Maryland Mortgage Assistance Relief Services Act, the Maryland Protection of Homeowners in Foreclosure Act and the Maryland Consumer Protection Act between 2010 and 2014. According to the Division, Mr. Williams and his company claimed that they could help consumers keep their homes free and clear of any mortgage obligations by detecting improper securitizations and wrongful foreclosures. The charges also allege that consumers were required to pay prohibited up-front fees of as much as \$4,500.

In addition to requiring Mr. Williams and his company to cease and desist from violating Maryland law, the charges seek restitution for all consumers harmed by their practices and a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation of the Maryland Consumer Protection Act.

A hearing for this matter is scheduled to begin on September 19, 2016 at the Office of Administrative Hearings, 11101 Gilroy Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21031. Consumers with complaints against Mr. Williams or Mutual Associates Professional Solutions, LLC should call the Consumer Protection Division at 410-576-6569 or write to 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.